

means for forwarding said second connection information to said first communications system via said first secure connection thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection request to said second communications system, wherein said connection request uses said second connection information as second communications system destination information; and

means for forwarding said first connection information system to said second communications system via said second secure connection, thereby:

enabling said second communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement and request to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information system as first communications system destination information, and

enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement directly to said second communications system in response to receiving said connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications system's next connection; and said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

Change(s) applied 24
to document, 26. (Cancelled)
/K.S.G./
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25. (Currently Amended) A central communications station for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said central communications station comprising:
said first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall to directly communicate with each other, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system; ~~said central communications station comprising:~~